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PastWatch - March 1996

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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Past Watch



Volume Five, Number One, March 1996. Newsletter of the Archeological Research Trust
of The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology, University of South Carolina

PROFILE ON NEW CHAIRMAN ANTONY CALDWELL HARPER

Tony's interest in archaeology started at the age of six when he found an arrowhead near his grandparent's summer home in the mountains in the western part of the state, right on the North Carolina line. Over thirty years later, he returned to the site of that first find and picked up a clovis point believed to be the first ever found in Greenville County. By the age of twelve, his collection of over a hundred artifacts came to the attention of Charlie Schewing and N. A. McKeithen, two of the most prominent amateur archaeologists in the state. During Tony's teenage years, his association with these two individuals led to a life-long interest in pre-Columbian cultures.

While at the University of Georgia, Tony studied under Dr. Arthur "Doc" Kelly, a noted authority on North American pre-Columbian cultures and the foremost archaeologist in the southeast. It was during this period that "Doc" worked with state officials to establish the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology in South Carolina. Tony accompanied "Doc" on his trips to Columbia to work out details with Dr. Turney-High and others for the framework of what has grown to become SCIAA.

"Because of the fond memories of my childhood interest and my association with the founding fathers of SCIAA, the Institute will always have a special place in my heart. When the Archeological Research Trust (ART) was formed to benefit SCIAA in November 1992, and I was given the opportunity to serve on the Board; I accepted with a great deal of enthusiasm.

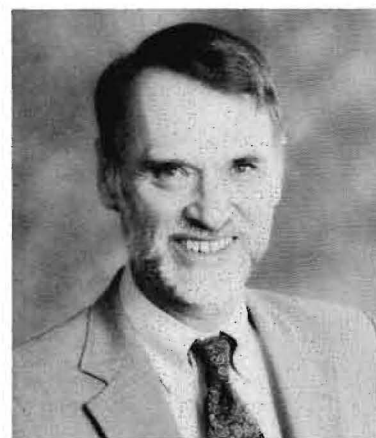
"The theme of our efforts for 1996 will be: Networking with people and organizations in order to better preserve South Carolina's non-renewable archaeological resource."

Two Goals for 1996

I. Initiate a gradual restructuring of the ART Board seeking at least one representative from each of the six

congressional districts. This will give us a higher profile and an ongoing two-way flow of information from all areas of the State.

II. Seek a working relationship with the various historical organizations state-wide, particularly the ones that are associated with local history museum efforts, and develop areas of common concerns with these groups such as public education on the importance of site preservation, display of artifacts on or near the site, and joint fund raisers.



"ART has come a long way in a short period of time it has been in existence. The momentum that has been developed is a source of pride to all of us who have had the good fortune to have played a part. My hope is that this positive direction will continue and accelerate in the coming year. It is in this spirit that these two goals will be suggested to the Board at the next meeting in May."

**The ART Board of Trustees
and the Staff of the Institute
wish to extend a sincere thank
you to our anonymous benefactor
for the generous contribution of
\$50,000 to the ART Endowment
in late 1995!**

PastWatch, published four times a year, is the newsletter of the Archaeological Research Trust, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina

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INSIDE!

**Introducing Chairman Harper
Pumpkin Site Update
Director's Vista
Central America Trip
Santa Elena Update
Allendale Expedition
Underwater Archaeology Projects**

THE PUMPKIN SITE UPDATE

By Tommy Charles

Excavations at 38GR226 the "Pumpkin" site, have been completed and analysis of the artifact data is underway. What can we expect to learn from this site? Preliminary examination of the artifacts and the map which was made of all the features indicate a repetition and reinforcement of what has been learned from previous excavations in North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia. That is; that Connestee sites produce relatively little in terms of artifacts in relation to many other cultures. Stone tools are almost absent. Neither is there well-preserved bone or wood; no beads or other forms of body ornaments were recovered. No burials have been found at "Pumpkin", also consistent with other Connestee sites. So what have we found to advance our knowledge of the Connestee people? The site itself is important. It places a sizable Connestee village farther south in Carolina than any previously recorded. A partial excavation—approximately 20%—has uncovered 504 features. These features resulted when prehistoric American Indians, thought to be Connestee, excavated post holes into the red clay subsoil for the construction of prehistoric houses and cooking hearths. They also dig large oval pits for a yet undetermined use. An elbow-type pipe was found that yielded a carbon-14 date of 440 AD and various Connestee pottery. All these things are attributes consistent with Connestee culture wherever found.

So what is missing that we can reasonably hope to add to this picture? How were the Connestee making a living? Were the Connestee people still maintaining a pure hunter/gatherer way of life or were they already experimenting with agriculture in the bottom lands of the nearby Saluda River? No where

has this question been answered. Either other archaeologists have not acquired the material needed for such analysis or they lacked the funding to do it. Either way, at this time the first documentation of the growing of corn, squash and beans in this region is attributed to the Pisgah culture that immediately followed the Connestee. Speculation is that the Pisgah people were the first farmers, but that has neither been proved or disproved. The "Pumpkin" site has an excellent opportunity to do just that. We have obtained soil samples from each of the large pit features excavated. By submitting them to a process called "floatation" we can separate the minute seed and bone fragments—from the soil. These samples can then be analyzed by an expert to determine what was being utilized for food by the Connestee. This process—is the only way that we can recover data needed to determine how these people were utilizing the local environment for food. To prove, or disprove, that the Connestee were the first farmers in the lower Blue Ridge mountain area would be a tremendous discovery—the "Pumpkin" site offers that possibility.

The process of "floatation" and analysis will cost approximately \$1,000 and will take several months to complete the process. Also I would like to obtain radiocarbon dates for several of the structural post molds to prove association with the Connestee or determine if they might possibly have been made by still earlier peoples. The possibility of them post dating Connestee is remote as we found no artifacts known to be from a later culture.

We have the possibility of adding a significant chapter to what is known about the Connestee. But to do so we need approximately \$2,000 to cover the cost of floatation, analysis and several carbon-14 dates.

DIRECTOR'S VISTA

Bruce Rippeteau, Director and State Archaeologist

Greetings! I hope this issue of *PastWatch* finds you well. Easily the most important news is that a Benefactor of Archaeology in South Carolina sent a surprise \$100,000 to the Institute in December 1995. This Benefactor wishes to remain anonymous, but in one fell swoop put our Archaeological Research Trust Endowment over \$100,000 (actually to \$115,000 as of 31 December). \$100,000 seemed an impossible attainment when we imagined such a goal in 1991. Well, to imagine is to seek and—if you have friends—perhaps, to attain. So thank you, Benefactor, and know that we are humbled by your generosity.

We are also really grateful to everyone also who gave to the Trust in 1995 to benefit archaeological research in South Carolina. Several of you wonderful people gave \$1,000 and \$5,000 and lots of you gave \$25 and \$100. To all of us who gave to the Trust, thank you!

The upshot is that, as we proceed in 1996, the Trust actually has some significant interest money to award to meritorious projects. Thus, you will see a shift to more and more reports of what ART's research awards have actually accomplished.

A second development has been the 07-08 February ART Board of Trustees meeting in Greenville hosted by Board Chairperson Tony Harper, Board Vice-Chairperson Lezlie Barker and her husband, Scott Barker, John and Patty Walker, and Olga and Skipper Bowles. In addition to our meeting we visited one of ART and the SCIAA's important projects: the Pumpkin site, (386R226), located on John and Patty Walker's land in northern Greenville County. The excavation was accomplished by Lezlie Barker, John Walker and others under the supervision of Tommy Charles with assistance by Dr. Chester DePratter of SCIAA, and the financial donations from many citizens, including local historian and archaeologist, Wesley Breedlove. The greatest good was the participation by so many Greenville and Upstate supporters of archaeology. I "hesitate to name any for fear of not all", but I must gratefully acknowledge their support, both over the years and for Tommy's research (and remember Tommy just finished two terms as ART's founding Secretary) and site survey work. ART is people, if anything!

We hope that ART donors will visit Al Goodyear in May at the Big Pine Tree site in Allendale County to see for yourselves the important research on the first peoples of South Carolina and the New World. In the Fall from mid-September to mid-November (and during South Carolina Archaeology Week!), the Santa Elena crew will be working on Parris Island!

Well, it's been a good quarter year. Nena Powell Rice is back from the ART Sponsored Trip to Belize, Mexico, and Guatemala where she led 13 other people, and she has a great deal of interest from folks in a trip to Peru in June 1996.



Help Preserve South Carolina Archaeology...

**I Would Like to Contribute to the
Archaeological Research Trust (ART)!**

Name _____

Address _____

_____ New Donor

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Special Contribution for _____

Allendale Paleoindian Research _____

Santa Elena Project _____

Piedmont Archaeology _____

Underwater Archaeology _____

_____ Student.....\$10

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Please make your check payable to: Educational Foundation

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All Contributions Are Tax Deductible

(\$12.50 of Each Donation will go into the Earnings Account)

ART SPONSORED TRIP TO BELIZE, MEXICO, AND GUATEMALA A GREAT SUCCESS!!

By Nena Powell Rice, Trip Leader

On February 11, 1996, fourteen people flew from Columbia to Belize City to begin a 15-day journey into the Maya Heartland of Belize, Mexico, and Guatemala. Participants included **Marion and Nena Rice** from Columbia, South Carolina, **Steve and Dotti Ackerman** from Columbia, South Carolina, **Tom and Nancy Riddlehoover** from South Port, North Carolina, **Randall and Nancy Swan** from Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, **Van Robinson** from Charleston, South Carolina, **Charles and Mary Sue Poole** from Columbia, South Carolina, **Chris Poole** from Ft. Collins, Colorado, **Jane Wilson** from Donalds, South Carolina, and **Gray Macaulay** from Lexington, South Carolina. We visited 13 Maya sites, several natural preserves,

climbed in caves, canoed the Macal River, took several boat trips, observed 106 species of birds, swam in cascading pools in the Rio On, rode through primary rainforest on horseback, and snorkeled on several cayes on the Palancar Barrier Reef (second largest in the world) in the Caribbean Sea off the mainland of Belize. We visited all but one of the Districts in Belize, and traveled on every road. I have just completed a 27-page account of the trip day-by-day, and if anyone is interested in seeing a copy, please let me know. I feel the photographs tell it all. I want to thank the group of participants in traveling with the Institute on this trip and look forward to traveling with you again in the future. It was a great group!!





SANTA ELENA UPDATE

Chester DePratter and Stanley South

During the first two weeks in April (April 1 to 12, 1996), we will be in the field at Santa Elena to conduct further testing around the Marine Corps golf course clubhouse. We hope to find the waster pile that goes with the Spanish pottery kiln that we found and excavated in 1993 (see photograph).

We are planning to return to Santa Elena Fall of 1996, to continue excavations in the town. Current plans call for the excavation of two wells and the remaining unexcavated one-third of the high status lot that we have been working on since 1991. The eight-week-long Fall Project will run from mid-September to mid-November.

The crew, which will include volunteers, has already been selected for the April work. If you are interested in volunteering for the Fall Project, call Chester DePratter at (803) 777-8170.

Volunteer crew members receive \$20 a day to cover food costs; and volunteers must stay at least one full week.

All Santa Elena project excavations are open to visitation by the public, and we always have guides available to lead visitors on site tours. Each year we have about 1,500 people come to view the excavations including an average of 750 school children. We work Monday through Friday weather permitting. The fact that Santa Elena is located on the U. S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot should not deter you from visiting. The Marine Corps guard at the gate to the base will be glad to give you directions to the site which is located at the golf course.

FUNDS NEEDED

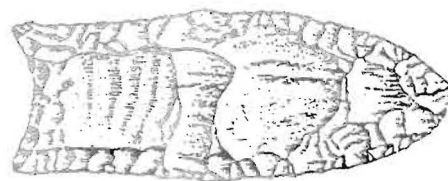
We are currently raising funds for the 1996 Fall Project at Santa Elena.

We have very limited in-house research money, so we must raise most funds for research projects from external sources. With the ever-tighter budget in Washington, we are forced to turn to new funding sources. The eight-week Fall Field Season at Santa Elena will cost approximately \$20,000 to pay supervisors, provide crew per diem, and purchase film, plastic, and other expendable supplies. Once the field project is completed, we will need at least another \$20,000 to \$40,000 to process and analyze the collections and produce a final report.

If you would like to support Santa Elena Research, you can make tax-deductible donations through ART: please indicate on your check that your contribution is to go to the Santa Elena Project. We appreciate your support. Please come to see us!



*Stan South in Spanish Kiln
at Santa Elena
SCIAA Photo*



COME JOIN THE ALLENDALE PALEOINDIAN EXPEDITION!

By Albert C. Goodyear

The public is invited to join the S. C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology's 1996 Expedition to Allendale County in search of Ice Age Indians of South Carolina.

Fieldwork this year will focus on the continued excavation of the Big Pine Tree site, a site with multiple successive prehistoric occupations beginning with a Clovis (11,000 B.P.) component, and two other sites located nearby along Smith's Lake Creek. Diagnostic Paleoindian bifaces have been found at all three locations. Smith's Lake Creek and the surrounding hillsides were the quarry sources of chert, a preferred flint-like rock for the manufacture of prehistoric chipped stone tools for thousands of years.

The excavation will be led by Dr. Al Goodyear, Associate Director for Research and his graduate students. The work week begins on Tuesday morning and ends Saturday afternoon. Lectures by SCIAA staff and visiting archaeologists will take place in the evenings. Participants will help out in all aspects of excavation and laboratory analysis. Some tours to nearby sites are also being planned.

Registration cost for the five-day experience is \$275. Free camping and hot showers are available at the campsite. Lunch and supper are provided, and a cook will prepare the evening meal. Each registrant must provide their own tent and bedding and breakfast. Motels are available within 25 minutes of the site for those that do not wish to camp.

If you are interested in participating in the 1996 Allendale Paleoindian Expedition, please contact Dr. Al Goodyear or Nena Powell Rice at SCIAA and send back the form below. Only 20 slots are available (and they are filling up fast), five people a week for four weeks. The first week begins Tuesday May 7, 1996 and is over Saturday afternoon May 11th. The last week begins May 28th and is over on June 1st. All applications must include a \$35 non refundable application fee. The balance is due on before April 1, 1996. Please make checks payable to USC/SCIAA.

THE 1996 ALLENDALE PALEOINDIAN EXPEDITION

Name _____ Phone Day _____ Night _____

Address _____
_____ State _____ Zip _____

I wish to register for Week 1 _____; Week 2 _____; Week 3 _____; Week 4 _____

My \$35 is enclosed _____ My \$275 Registration Fee is Enclosed _____

Please Return Check To: Dr. Al Goodyear, S. C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, 1321 Pendleton Street, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. Please call for further information at 803-777-8170 and ask for Dr. Goodyear or Mrs. Nena Powell Rice.

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECTS IN 1996!

This year the Underwater Archaeology Division is offering a series of workshops and field training courses for the public. Both divers and non-divers are welcome to attend. Course attendance can also be accredited towards avocational archaeological certification for future participation in state projects or more advanced training courses. Each workshop costs \$15. Encircle the relevant course and make checks payable to SCIAA. Send to SDAMP, PO. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422. If you have questions, please call Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105, FAX: (803) 762-5831.

ASSC Conference (Columbia): April 20

Field Training Course Part I: May 24, 25, 26. For divers and non-divers. Cost of course is \$75. Motel rates in Charleston are expensive. We have booked two cabins, which each sleep eight, at James Island Park. These highly recommended spacious cabins are close to the field course venue. The cost is \$80 per night. If we have eight per cabin it will be a reasonable \$10 per night. Let us know if you are interested in these accommodations as we have to cancel 30 days in advance.

Bottle and Ceramic Workshop (Beaufort): June 22. Local Scuba Club.

Cooper River Workshop (Berkeley County): July 27. Completion of Field Training Course Part I is a

requirement to attend this workshop.

Small Watercraft Documentation (Charleston): September 21 and 22. Completion of Part I is a necessary qualification for this workshop.

Archaeology Week Events (all around the state): September 28 - October 5. We are in the process of planning a special first-time public archaeology event. This could include a conference (papers to be given primarily by avocational archaeologists and students - and maybe a few professionals as fillers) followed by an oyster roast or shrimp broil on James Island at Fort Johnson. Conference attendance cost (participation as a speaker is free) will be \$15.

Please make a note of the conferences (ASSC and Archaeology Week) and start thinking now about presentations that you could give. This could range from project participation, historical research, underwater archaeology training courses offered by scuba instructors, analysis of an artifact collection, methods and techniques (mapping, artifact photography, videography, drawing, setting up exhibits, etc.) and even innovative ideas about how archaeologists and the public can work together more effectively to document, preserve and display our heritage. The Charleston office staff are very willing to help first-time hobby divers or student presenters with guidance in ideas for papers and in the making of appropriate slides. We also hope to publish a conference proceedings.

For more information on these events, please call Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105.

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